



# NASA Policy Directive

**NPD 8710.5D**

Effective Date: March 12, 2008

Expiration Date: March 12, 2013

**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Request Notification of Change

 (NASA Only)

## **Subject: Policy for Pressure Vessels and Pressurized Systems**

**Responsible Office: Office of Safety and Mission Assurance**

### **1. POLICY**

To manage risk to people, facilities, and the environment posed by flight and ground-based pressure vessels and pressurized systems (PVS) (including boilers), it is NASA policy to perform the following activities:

- a. Design, acquire, fabricate, inspect, test, install, repair and alter, operate, and maintain all ground-based PVS in accordance with the applicable codes, standards, guides, and regulations as detailed in NASA- STD-8719.17, NASA Requirements for Ground-Based Pressure Vessels and Pressurized Systems (PVS).
- b. Certify all ground-based PVS in accordance with this NPD and NASA-STD- 8719.17 prior to operation.
- c. Qualify and accept spaceflight PVS, including qualification units, in accordance with ANSI/AIAA S-080, Space Systems Metallic Pressure Vessels, Pressurized Structures, and Pressure Components, and ANSI/AIAA S-081, Space Systems Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels (COPV).
- d. Qualify and accept atmospheric flight (nonspaceflight) PVS in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration regulations in Title 14 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.
- e. For ground-based PVS (including flight PVS converted for ground use), where it is not practical (due to age or design) to meet the requirements of paragraph 1.a, evaluate, certify, and accept risk for specific operational parameters in accordance with NPR 8715.3, NASA General Safety Program Requirements, this NPD, NASA-STD-8719.17, and Center policy or procedure prior to operation.
- f. For space flight PVS, where it is not practical to meet the requirements of paragraph 1.c, evaluate, certify, and accept risk in accordance with program management risk acceptance requirements prior to operation.
- g. Exclude categories of ground-based or specific ground-based PVS from Center PVS certification programs only after review, evaluation, and documentation (in the PVS configuration management system) of the rationale supporting the exclusion. Typical examples of excluded items that are permissible for use without certification are low-risk, off-the- shelf commercial systems that meet all applicable standards.
- h. Perform periodic inspection and recertification for all PVS to ensure their ongoing fitness for service and to document and assess relevant changes in condition or knowledge that materially affect risk assessment.
- i. Document and maintain the certification status of PVS to indicate all exceptions, waivers, nonconformances, special constraints, or instructions required for safe operation of the PVS.
- j. Ensure that PVS are operated and maintained in accordance with applicable national consensus codes and standards and by skilled, adequately trained, and qualified personnel who shall be certified in accordance with NPR 8715.3.
- k. Establish a configuration management program to control the engineering and maintenance changes made to PVS.
- l. Evaluate tenant and transient (e.g., construction, and not including onsite support service) contract PVS programs to determine whether they can be accepted as meeting the requirements of this NPD by providing an equivalent level

of safety or if they need to be incorporated into a NASA- operated PVS program.

m. Exceptions, adjustments, deviations, and waivers shall be processed in accordance with NPR 8715.3, NASA-STD-8719.17, and this NPD.

## 2. APPLICABILITY

a. This NPD applies to NASA Headquarters and NASA Centers, including Component Facilities, and to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and to other contractors to the extent specified in the respective contracts.

b. This NPD applies to NASA-owned or -operated temporary or permanent ground-based PVS and flight PVS and to non-NASA-owned contractor or tenant PVS operated on NASA property if those PVS are determined to pose a risk to NASA personnel, facilities, or equipment.

## 3. AUTHORITY

a. 42 U.S.C. § 2473(c)(1), Section 203(c)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended.

b. Title 14, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Aeronautics and Space.

c. Department of Labor (DOL), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 29 CFR Part 1960, Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs and Related Matters.

d. Department of Labor (DOL), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 29 CFR Part 1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards.

## 4. REFERENCES

a. NPR 8705.6, Safety and Mission Assurance Audits, Reviews, and Assessments.

b. NPR 8715.3, NASA General Safety Program Requirements.

c. NASA-STD-8719.17, NASA Requirements for Ground-Based Pressure Vessels and Pressurized Systems (PVS).

d. ANSI/AIAA S-080, Space Systems Metallic Pressure Vessels, Pressurized Structures, and Pressure Components.

e. ANSI/AIAA S-081, Space Systems Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels (COPV).

## 5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance shall:

(1) Ensure that Centers and programs establish and document their PVS program in accordance with this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17 (Requirement 30937).

(2) Approve exceptions and waivers to this directive in accordance with NPR 8715.3, NASA-STD-8719.17, or as further delegated in this NPD (Requirement).

b. For space and atmospheric flight PVS, Program/Project Managers and Institutional Managers shall:

(1) Designate an individual with responsibility for establishing a qualification and acceptance or recertification process to ensure safe and reliable testing and use of space and atmospheric-flight PVS (Requirement 30940).

(2) Qualify space and atmospheric flight PVS and accept the associated residual risks in accordance with paragraphs 1.c, 1.d, and 1.f (Requirement 30941).

(3) Accept the risk for exceptions and waivers in accordance with NPR 8715.3 and this document (Requirement 30938).

c. Center Directors, including Directors of Component Facilities, shall perform the following activities for ground-based PVS:

(1) Designate an individual qualified to perform the duties delineated in paragraph 5.e below and in NASA-STD-8719.17 to serve as Pressure Systems Manager (PSM) and Technical Authority for PVS (Requirement 30943).

(2) Accept the risks of operation in accordance with this NPD and the risk matrix contained in NASA-STD-8719.17 for PVS with Risk Acceptance Code (RAC) 1 or 2 after mitigation (residual risk) (Requirement 30944).

(3) Ensure that all requests for exceptions and waivers are processed and maintained in accordance with NPR 8715.3, NASA-STD-8719.17, and this NPD (see paragraph 1.m) (Requirement 30956).

- (4) Accept the risks of operation for exceptions and waivers in accordance with this NPD and the risk matrix contained in NASA-STD- 8719.17 for PVS with Risk Acceptance Code (RAC) 1 or 2 after mitigation (residual risk) (Requirement).
- (5) Provide sufficient resources to implement the PVS program (Requirement 30945).
- (6) Direct application of this NPD to non-NASA-owned PVS that pose risks to NASA personnel, facilities, equipment, or property through contract provisions or other means (agreements, memoranda of agreement, joint use agreements) based on guidance from the PSM (Requirement 30946).
- (7) Ensure that the PSM is functionally independent (does not oversee his own work, has a mechanism established to avoid undue influence from those he oversees, and has an alternative reporting path to upper management) of organizational units that own or operate PVS that are subject to the requirements of this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17, and has sufficient authority to perform the duties delineated in paragraph 5.e below (Requirement).
- d. The management of the organization responsible for the ground-based PVS shall perform the following activities:
- (1) Ensure that operating, inspection, and maintenance procedures are developed and implemented to assure compliance with the operational limits of the PVS (Requirement 30948).
- (2) Ensure personnel are properly trained, qualified, and certified (when required) to operate a specific PVS (Requirement 30949).
- (3) Submit designs or procurement specifications for new PVS or modifications to existing PVS for review and evaluation by the PSM or designee prior to initiating the procurement action or the modification (Requirement 30950).
- (4) Design, acquire, fabricate, inspect, test, install, repair, alter, operate, and maintain all PVS items in accordance with the requirements of this NPD, NASA-STD-8719.17, and the design specifications (Requirement 30951).
- (5) Ensure all PVS are certified (or qualified/accepted) in accordance with this NPD prior to use (Requirement 30952).
- (6) Accept the risks of operation for exceptions and waivers in accordance with this NPD and NPR 8715.3 (Requirement 30953).
- (7) Ensure that a configuration management system is established to control the engineering and maintenance changes made to PVS (Requirement).
- e. The PSM shall perform the following activities for ground-based PVS:
- (1) Serve as Technical Authority for ground-based PVS (Requirement).
- (2) Ensure that Center-specific procedures are developed and implemented for PVS design, acquisition, fabrication, inspection, testing, installation, repair, alteration, operation, maintenance, certification, and documentation of noncompliance to meet the requirements of this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17 (Requirement 30955).
- (3) Evaluate and certify PVS in accordance with paragraph 1.b or paragraph 1.e and NASA-STD-8719.17 prior to operation (Requirement 30957).
- (4) Review design and procurement specifications for compliance with this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17 (Requirement 30958).
- (5) Specify national consensus standards that apply to ground-based PVS consistent with the requirements of NASA-STD-8719.17 and interpret as necessary national consensus standard application(s) to the Center (Requirement 30959).
- (6) Review and approve/disapprove requests for exception or waiver to the requirements of this NPD based on the technical merits of the request (Requirement 30960).
- (7) Advise the Contracting Officer and Center Director on the application of this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17 on contractor or tenant operations if a non-NASA-owned PVS operated on NASA property poses risk to NASA personnel, facilities, or equipment (Requirement 30961).
- (8) Based on periodic review of equivalency, accept applicable non-NASA tenant or transient (e.g., construction, and not including on-site support service) contractor PVS safety programs as meeting the requirements of this NPD, or require incorporation of the affected PVS in the Center PVS program (Requirement).
- (9) Identify, review, and evaluate specific PVS or categories of PVS that may be excluded from Center PVS programs on the basis of negligible operational risk or hazard to personnel under any foreseeable failure, in accordance with NASA-STD-8719.17, and document the rationale for the exclusion in the PVS configuration

management system (Requirement 30962).

(10) Ensure that a PVS configuration management program is developed and maintained (see paragraph 1.k) (Requirement 30963).

(11) Ensure that periodic inspection and recertification is performed for all ground-based PVS to assure their ongoing fitness for service and to document and assess relevant changes in condition or knowledge that materially affect risk assessment (Requirement).

(12) Document and maintain the certification status of PVS including indication of all exceptions, waivers, nonconformances, special constraints, or instructions required for safe operation of the PVS (see para 1.i) (Requirement 30979).

f. The Contracting Officer shall perform the following activities:

(1) Notify the PSM of a proposed procurement for PVS which has not been reviewed by the PSM per paragraph 5.e(4) (Requirement 30965).

(2) On advice of the PSM, and direction of Center management, implement the requirements of this NPD and NASA-STD-8719.17 on contracts and acquisitions (Requirement 30966).

g. For ground-based PVS, Center, or Component Facility safety directors shall review and approve/disapprove requests for exception or waiver based on the requirements of this NPD. (Requirement 30967).

## 6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

a. The Chief, Safety and Mission Assurance is delegated the authority to approve exceptions and waivers for this NPD.

b. Safety and mission assurance technical authority is delegated to the PSM.

## 7. MEASUREMENTS

Compliance with the requirements contained in this NPD will be verified through processes contained in NPR 8705.6, Safety and Mission Assurance Audits, Reviews, and Assessments.

## 8. CANCELLATION

NPD 8710.5C, dated September 26, 2003.

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**/s/ Michael D. Griffin**  
**Administrator**

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## ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)

None.

**(URL for Graphic)**

None.

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